

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are now pending in the application. Of these pending claims, Claims 1, 7, 10-12, and 15 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application, drawings and claims as originally filed and, as such, no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

SPECIFICATION

Applicant has amended the specification to better define the structure shown in Figure 7. In this regard, Applicant has amended paragraph [0026] to clarify that the first portion has opposed flat bearing surfaces at 58 and 59. Support for this amendment can be clearly found in Figure 7.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the “planar channel bearing surfaces” in Claims 1 and 15 are not disclosed in the specification (Claims 2-14 and 16-21 were rejected as being dependent upon a rejected claim). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Applicant believes this limitation is fully supported by the disclosure of the instant application, Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to expedite prosecution.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hofschneider (U.S. Pat. No. 6,669,421) in view of Mason (U.S. Pat. No. 4,650,208), and further in view of Brilmyer (U.S. Pat. No. 5,580,201). Claim 21 stands rejected as being unpatentable over Hofschneider in view of Mason, and further in view of Brilmyer as applied to Claim 15 above, and further in view of Reichelt (U.S. Pat. No. 6,113,299). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner's attention is directed to independent Claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that the threaded fastener defines "a pair of longitudinal channels, each having the same cross-section. . . ."

Similarly, Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitation "the longitudinal channels have the same cross-section." Applicant notes the Hofschneider reference specifically teaches away from this limitation. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to column 1, lines 47-52:

"This is achieved according to the invention in that the shank and the second eccentric disk have such coding that the second eccentric disk can only be pushed onto the shank in the correct position, such that the circumferential punching burr is oriented away from the head."

Further, column 1, lines 60-64 of Hofschneider teaches:

"The guide grooves interact with noses, which extend into the interior of the eccentrically arranged push-on opening of the second eccentric disk, such that the second eccentric disk can only be pushed onto the shank in the correct position."

As Hofschneider teaches away from the claimed limitation, Applicant respectfully asserts one skilled in the art would not look to Hofschneider to include the symmetric

slots. Further, this modification of Hofschneider would impermissibly modify the principle of Hofschneider, and is improper.

Applicant further traverses the Office's characterization that Hofschneider discloses a suspension member. In this regard, Applicant submits that the Hofschneider reference discloses a washer non-rotatably disposed about a threaded bolt. Applicant submits that nowhere in the Hofschneider reference is there disclosure that the plate/bolt interface is configured to resist torsional load, let along the torsional loads associated with suspension component. As such, Applicant submits that the structure shown in Hofschneider is non-analogous art, and those skilled in the art would not look to Hofschneider for teaching related to torsional bearing suspension members.

Applicant further respectfully traverses the Office's depiction of the formation of the curved grooves within the shaft of the Hofschneider reference. While the Examiner's depiction could be used to form a non-symmetric similar structure, it would not form the curved surfaces of the Hofschneider reference. Further, Applicant notes that none of the references disclose this machining technique. As such, Applicant asserts the depictions and analysis are misguided.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and

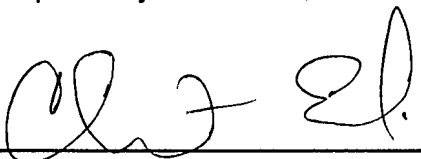
favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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